

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,594,279 to Itou et al. ("Itou"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants independent claim 1 describes a semiconductor integrated circuit, comprising "a shielded wire line; and a shielding wire line provided for the shielded wire line, wherein a width of the shielding wire line is greater than a width of the shielded wire line, and each of the shielding wire line and the shielded wire line are **positioned within a same layer of the semiconductor integrated circuit.**" Thus, the shielding wire line and the shielded wire line are positioned in the same layer of the semiconductor integrated circuit.

In contrast, Itou describes a shield wiring 131 and a shield wiring 132 (which the Examiner equates to Applicants' claimed shielding wiring line), and a Vss wiring 2 and a Vdd wiring 3 (which the Examiner equates to Applicants' claimed shielded wire line). Nevertheless, referring to Figure 13 of Itou, Vss wiring 2 and Vdd wiring 3 are positioned **on top of** shield wiring 131 and shield wiring 132. Consequently, Vss wiring 2 and Vdd wiring 3 are **not** positioned on the **same layer** as shield wiring 131 and shield wiring 132.

Itou also describes power source wiring 62 and 63 (which the Examiner equates to Applicants' claimed shielded wire line) a shielding wire line 61. Nevertheless, referring to Figure 6a of Itou, power source wiring 62 and 63 are positioned in a different layer than shielding wire line 61. Therefore, Applicants

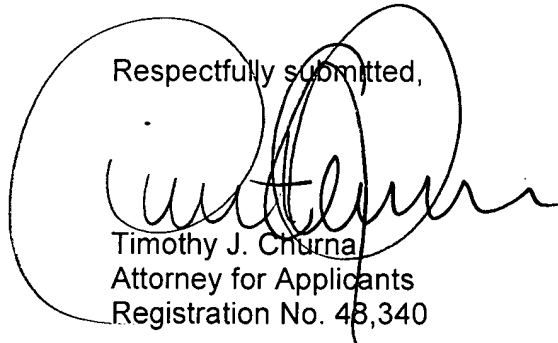
Kenichi USHIYAMA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/694,997
Docket No.: 100353-00176

respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1
at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing Attorney Docket No. 100353.00176.

Respectfully submitted,

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